

Amendments To the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include a change to Fig. 11b, appearing in three sheets, Fig. 11b(i), Fig. 11b(ii) and Fig. 11b(iii) and with the change appearing only in the latter. These sheets replace the original sheets. Fig. 11b, previously omitted reference number 700 referencing the switch 700, which has now been added to Fig. 11b, namely sheet Fig. 11b(iii).

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Change

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner Mr. Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee and the SPE, Mr. Fritz Fleming, for their time in conducting an Examiner's interview, this is truly appreciated. Receipt of the Interview Summary, dated May 31, 2006, is acknowledged and the comments/remarks stated on the Continuation Page of the same are believed to be accurate with one exception, as noted below.

A number of co-inventors are being added and documents are being submitted to effectuate the same.

The specification is amended, as recited hereinabove, to correct typographical and grammatical errors; no new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-19 remain pending in the subject application. Claim 20 has been added. Claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 14 and 19 have been amended, as recited hereinabove.

Claims 8 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 8 and 13 have been amended and are believed to now be in proper form.

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9 – 12, 14 – 17 and 19 have been rejected, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Grieff et al. (US Patent 6,961,813) (hereinafter "Grieff"). It is believed that independent claims 1, 9, 14 and 19 and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over Grieff for, inter alia, the following reasons.

In a general sense, a notable difference between Grieff and the claimed invention is that the latter switches on a FIS by FIS basis, whereas, according to the disclosure of Grieff, the same is not possible. In accordance therewith, contrary to the cited references in Grieff, in the office action, the arbitration and control circuit of the claimed invention is not present in Grieff. More specifically, it is believed that Grieff does not teach "selecting ..., whenever either one of the first or second host units sends FIS to the device". Grieff must first wait for the completion of a command prior to sending another FIS [See Grieff: Col. 5, Ins. 49-64 and col. 7, Ins. 2-6]. Due to the architecture of Grieff, it cannot accommodate "whenever one of the first or second host units sends FIS".

Furthermore, Grieff fails to teach "wherein the FIS of the first and second host units and the device identify which one of the first or second host units is an origin and/or destination host so ..." of the claimed invention.

Moreover, as discussed during the Interview, the "concurrency", has been added to the language of the claims and defined on page 44, lines 24-26 of the subject specification. It is believed that Grieff does not disclose "concurrent" access of the device, such as the claimed invention

Thus, it is believed that claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9 – 12, 14 – 17 and 19 are patentable over Grieff and therefore, all claims depending therefrom are necessarily patentable over Grieff.

Claims 4, 13 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grieff in view of Talati (US Patent 6,763,402). It is believed that the claimed invention is patentable over these references for, inter alia, the foregoing reasons. Further, the combination of these two references is respectfully disagreed with as neither teaches, suggests or hints at the teachings of the other.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grieff in view of Kreifels (US Patent 4,891,788). It is believed that the claimed invention is patentable over these references for, inter alia, the foregoing reasons. Further, the combination of these two references is respectfully disagreed with as neither teaches, suggests or hints at the teachings of the other.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-19 is hereby respectfully requested. Consideration and allowance of claim 20 is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is respectfully requested. Should any further amendment be required prior to passing the application to issue, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number set out below.

Application No: 10/775,523
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Reply to Non-Final Office Action of April 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence with all attachments is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop No Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington VA 22313-1450 on July 5, 2006 by Erika Villafana.



Attachments